

Population

Kansas increased in population from 2,715,884 residents in 2002 to 2,723,507 residents in 2003, a 0.3 percent increase. Seward, Ford, and Kearny counties had the largest increases in population from 1999 to 2003 with percent changes of 14.8, 11.6, and 11.0 respectively. Greeley, Ness and Republic counties had the largest decreases in population with percent changes of 13.8, 11.4, and 11.2 respectively. ([Table 2](#))

Frontier and rural counties continue to lose population (2.9 and 1.3 respectively) while densely-settled rural, semi-urban, and urban counties gain in population (0.8, 0.9, and 5.2 respectively). ([Table 2](#))

The rate of natural increase (difference between birth rate and death rate) has generally declined from a rate of 10.0 in 1964. In 2003, the natural increase rate was 5.4, a 1.9 percent increase from 5.3 in 2002. ([Figure 5](#))

The median age of Kansans in 2003 was 35.5 years, a 4.1 percent increase from the 34.1 median age in 1994. The median age for Kansas males and females in 2003 was 34.0 and 37.1 respectively. ([Figure 6](#), [Table 4](#))

The percent increase in the Kansas total population from 1994-2003 was 6.7 percent, including a 3.3 percent increase for Kansas males and a 4.2 percent increase for Kansas females. Shifts in the Kansas population distribution by age from 1994 to 2003 included decreases in the 5-14, 25-34, 35-44, and 65-74 age-groups of 2.5, 6.9, 2.5, and 9.1 percent respectively. An increase of 38.1 percent in residents 45-54 years of age and 22.7 percent in residents 55-64 years of age reflected the aging of the baby boomers. Furthermore, there were 2.7, 16.2, and 10.2 percent increases in the 0-4, 15-24, and 75 and over age-groups respectively. ([Figure 7](#), [Table 4](#))

The population density of Kansas was 33.3 persons per square mile in 2003, a 24.7 percent increase from 26.7 persons per square mile in 1964 and a 6.7 percent increase in population density since 1994. For comparison, the population density of the U.S. has increased from 53.0 to 82.2 persons per square mile from 1964 to 2003 respectively, a 55.1 percent increase. ([Figure 8](#))

In 2003, 33 of Kansas' 105 counties had population densities of less than 6.0 persons per square mile. The most sparsely populated counties were Wallace and Greeley with a density of 1.8 persons per square mile. The most densely populated county was Wyandotte, with 1,040.3 persons per square mile. ([Figure 9](#))